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# What You Need To Know: When You Can't Find Your UNIX System Administrator



## Synopsis

If you use UNIX, you know that it can be a technically challenging environment. And if you're like most users, you have a job to do aside from exploring your operating system -- like analyzing that hot new stock, running another experiment, or typesetting another report. What happens when you have problems? What happens when the system slows to a crawl, when you can't get logged back in after a power failure, or when you've sent a file to the printer three times but have yet to find a printout? Your first choice for handling a problem might be to have the problem never occur. Your second choice might be to have someone else fix it, immediately. However, in the real world, sometimes you will have to investigate the problem and report it, and sometimes you will have to find an answer yourself. When You Can't Find Your UNIX System Administrator, part of our new What You Need to Know series, gives UNIX users tools for solving problems. It offers: Practical solutions for problems you're likely to encounter in logging in, running programs, sharing files, managing space resources, printing, and so on Just enough background on what's going on "behind the scenes" so that you can make sense of our suggestions, rather than simply memorizing keystrokes An explanation of how to present problems to your sys admin so that you're more likely to get quick, accurate support A list of the site-specific information to which you should have access, and a place to write it down A quick-ref card summarizing what to try first, second, third for commonly encountered problems The goal of this book is not to make you a guru in your own right. The goal of this book is to get you back to the job you'd rather be doing.

## Book Information

Series: What You Need to Know

Paperback: 141 pages

Publisher: O'Reilly & Associates; 1st edition (April 11, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1565921046

ISBN-13: 978-1565921047

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,526,981 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Operating Systems > Unix > Administration](#) #1720 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Operating Systems > Linux](#) #2981 in [Books > Textbooks > Computer Science >](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book will tell you what you will probably discover on your own after a couple of months of serious use with Unix. The examples are very practical and very useful. I liked another interesting thing about this book. The authors from O'reilly books (Linda Lamb, Mike Loukides and the other unix gurus) tell some of their practical experiences. That's a nice touch!

If you work on a UNIX system and like 90% of UNIX users have no system-related training, you need this book. Unless you have the long-sought, never-found "world class support" that IT purports to strive for, you need this book. If you work at a typical place where UNIX support exists in name only or is haphazard at best (I give my sys admins Christmas gifts) then you need this book. If my own company would issue this book to new hires, productivity would increase with very little commensurate increase in risk. It's all about "employee engagement" and a big part of that is giving them the tools they need, right?

I like this book a lot - it's a quick ramp-up to the basics of unix, from a different angle, that is not how to do things but rather how to solve problems. As someone who used to be a VMS system administrator, I think *\*all\** users should read this book. Most of the problems are rather trivial, and a sysadmin shouldn't be bothered with them. As someone who had to be thrown into the water as a new unix user who could *\*not\** talk with the computer's sysadmin (except via email, which would be answered by the very busy sysadmins who have to handle hundreds of students when they don't have more urgent things to do) at about the time this book came out, I've found this book a gem. I recommend this book to any site which has new unix users, and have a copy made available to any new user to check with before escalating it to the sysadmin.

This book is a "must have" for every Unix user. At our office we have in the past created "cheat sheets" for Unix users in the event that our administrator is not around. This book covers everything that a user needs to know and more. I found the chapter on problem solving to be extremely useful. I plan to recommend that all of the Unix users in our office get a copy of this book.

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